



DelDOT Public Relations

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DelDOT Expands Scenic Highway Program

Dover – The Delaware Department of Transportation is attempting to identify and recognize unique roadways statewide to add to the State Scenic and Historic Highways (SSHH) program.

Under the five-year-old SSHH Program, a roadway may get such designation if it possesses at least one of the six intrinsic qualities defined by the Federal Highway Administration, namely, scenic, historic, natural, cultural, recreational and archeological. The two roadways currently designated are located in New Castle County.

The SSHH Program Guide defines a scenic highway (also referred to as a scenic byway) as a road corridor that offers an alternative travel route to major highways, while telling a story about Delaware's heritage, recreational activities or beauty. It is a route that is managed in order to protect its special intrinsic qualities and to encourage appreciation and/or development of tourism and recreational resources.

To ensure the designation, however, DelDOT relies on private groups and individuals to take an active role in the process and to work closely with DelDOT and others. Once a road corridor is designated, it opens the door for the creation of a Corridor Management Plan. Approval by DelDOT of the Corridor Management Plan then allows the corridor to be nominated for National Scenic Byway status.

The Delaware Scenic and Historic Highways Program was conceived during the 2000 legislative session after the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 320, authorizing DelDOT to develop and manage the program.

There are two State Scenic Highways in Delaware.

- The Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway was designated a Delaware Scenic and Historic Highway in June 2002 and a Corridor Management Plan was approved in April 2005. It was designated a National Scenic Byway in September. To view a video of the National Scenic Byway event go to http://www.deldot.gov/static/photo_gallery/photo_gallery.shtml.
- The Red Clay Valley Scenic Byway was designated a State Scenic Highway in April 2005.

"With this program we have another tool in place to preserve important corridors throughout the state," said Nathan Hayward III, Secretary of Transportation. "The two Scenic Highway designations we have in place now could not have moved forward without the passionate advocacy of the people that live in those areas. I fully expect that residents, organizations and businesses in Sussex and Kent counties will also come together to nominate their own Scenic Highways."

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Some of the benefits of getting the designation include:

- Increased business, tax revenue, and jobs from tourism;
- Federal and state funding for planning and implementing a Corridor Management Plan;
- Protection for a resource that may become threatened;
- Improved maintenance of the road;
- Access to resources and expert assistance in managing the corridor;
- Identification on state highway maps; and,
- Assistance from state offices of economic development and tourism.

Individuals or groups interested in learning more about the Program or in nominating a roadway should contact DelDOT Public Relations at 302-760-2080. More information about the byway program is available at http://www.deldot.gov/static/Community_programs_services/scenic_historic_hwy/.

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